

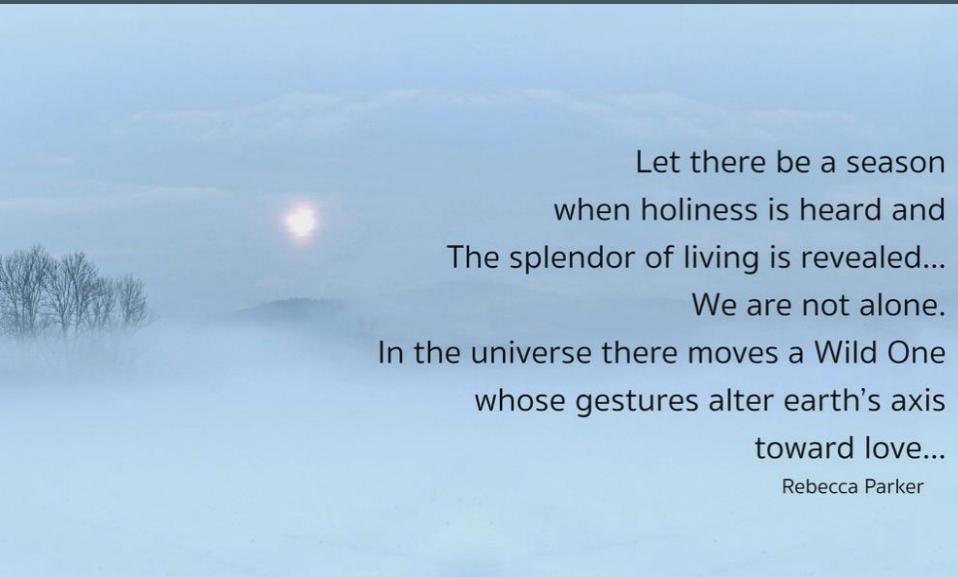
VOL. 63 ISSUE 11 • DECEMBER 2022

THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON



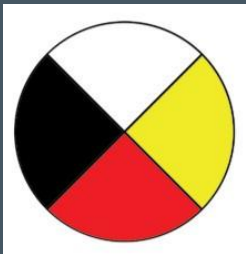
DECEMBER'S THEME: WELCOME TO THE PATH OF WONDER



Let there be a season
when holiness is heard and
The splendor of living is revealed...
We are not alone.
In the universe there moves a Wild One
whose gestures alter earth's axis
toward love...
Rebecca Parker

Land Acknowledgement

In accordance with our principles, we acknowledge with gratitude that we gather on traditional Cree lands that are now a part of Treaty Six and shared by many nations. A treaty is an inheritance, a responsibility and a relationship. May we be good neighbours to one another, good stewards to our planet and good ancestors to our children.



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Sunday Services

December 4 Carols and Lessons

Chorealis

Each night a child is born is a holy night; a time of wondering and worshipping. Angels will be singing if we choose to listen. Join Chorealis as we celebrate the wonder and promise of each new day.

December 11 Joy and Wonder Are Woven Fine

Rev. Morrison

William Blake wrote: "Joy and woe are woven fine, a clothing for the soul divine. Under every grief and pine, runs a joy with silken twine." The soul (our essence) longs for wonder and awe. We also know there is woe and sorrow woven into our lives. In this service we will celebrate the complexities of our lives and of this season. How do we keep the joy and wonder of the season and let go of those expectations that society and consumerism tell us we must meet? Guest Musician, Beth Portman; a dynamic vocalist, ukulele player and songwriter.

December 16 Blue Christmas

Rev. Morrison

Sometimes the wonder of the season only serves to create feelings of dis-comfort and loneliness. This service offers participants a chance to explore these feelings and thoughts in a safe and warm setting. There will be soup and pie offered afterward, a meal for the body and food for the soul.

December 18 Oh Mitten Tree: The Wonder of Giving

Our beloved Mitten Tree service is back! Bring your giving hearts and woolen items to warm the hearts and hands of the giver and the receiver! This service will hold some surprises too - it promises to be very fun so bring the whole family!

December 24 The Magic and Wonder of Christmas

Rev. Morrison

This beautiful Christmas Eve family friendly service will feature the Andrea Graham Quartet, dramatic readings, carols, Gordon Ritchie on the harp, and other magic and wonder filled offerings from many of our talented folx! This candle-lit service promises to be moving, joyful, and wonder filled, you won't want to miss it! Seasonal refreshments to follow.

December 25 Open House

Rev. Morrison

The church will be open by 10:00 a.m. for those that wish to meet. It will be open all day to welcome any member or friend (or couple) who may be alone or lonely on this day. There will be food, music, games, caroling, and a turkey dinner served at 5:00. When you arrive, you will become a participant in the preparation and clean up as you are able. Bring games, snacks, and your desire to have a fun filled time. Come for an hour, a quick coffee, or stay the day.

January 1 Meet the Neighbours

Susan Ruttan

Susan will share stories of some of the interesting people and groups who use our building. And we will have spoken candles, to mark a new year. This service is in-person only, to give our techs a day off.

Minister's Reflection: The Path of Wonder

BY REV. ROSEMARY MORRISON

December can be such a busy and wonder-filled time. It can also bring on feelings of loneliness and despair. The services and activities at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton are set to help us navigate the complexity of the season. Check out the many offerings that may help guide you through December.

The Christmas season has been taken over by shopping demands, have to's, and activities designed to make us think we have to partake, otherwise things just won't feel right. What if we thought about what it is about the season that we really love instead, and just did those? Perhaps it is the productions offered by choirs, orchestras, theatre companies, or your children's school. (By the way, tickets to productions make a wonderful gifts)



Or maybe it's the gatherings with friends and family that you love, and sometimes miss. Being with those we love (or tolerate) is a great way to spend time this season, and doesn't have to be centered around endless shopping and wrapping.

This season, I encourage you to spend some time thinking about what is important in your life, and what you want to experience during this season of twinkly lights and shiny offers. What is really important? Is it the purchasing of something, or is it the gift of your presence, your skill, or your kindness and caring? No one needs another 'thing,' but everyone needs to feel included, loved, and cared about. Take time to think about what you could let go of and what it is that you really want to accomplish and experience. I can almost guarantee what is important to you is not endless gifts, but connection, joy, and wonder.

May the real or imagined magic of this season find you, and bring a smile to your face and warmth to your heart.

In peace, Rev. Rosemary

“Joy and woe are woven fine, a clothing for the soul divine. Under every grief and pine, runs a joy with silken twine.”

WILLIAM BLAKE

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Calling All Church Members!

Is UCE ready for a settled minister? We haven't had one since Rev. Brian Kiely left nearly three years ago. We've had short-term ministers.

Our current minister, Rev. Rosemary Morrison, was hired on a four-year contract. Now we are considering whether she should be our permanent, settled minister.

We urge church members to take part in this important decision. Small-group discussions will be held after church on Jan. 8 and 15, in the church and on Zoom. Please attend if you can.

Ministerial Transition Team (Lynne Turvey, chair)



December's Sharing Our Abundance

For the month of December our Sharing the Plate recipient will be closer to home.

The Minister's Discretionary Fund is a fund that the minister can use to provide confidential assistance to those facing emergency financial need. From time to time the office of the minister is approached to assist someone that may have immediate food, safety, or shelter needs. This fund is where those emergency monies are taken from. This is a direct way to have a positive impact on the lives of congregants and community members. Right now, this fund is not in existence, your generosity will ensure the health of this fund throughout the year.

Thank you, Rev. Rosemary Morrison

End of Year Contributions



Year-end is coming. To make sure you receive your tax receipt for 2021 please have your donations to the church before the end of the month. If you donate to the collection plate then our last in-person service this year will be December 18th. If you donate by cheque then please make sure your donation is received before the office closes on Wednesday December 28th. Of course, you can donate online up until the 31st of December through Canada Helps or by Interac transfer to chadmin@uce.ca. Thank you to everyone whose donations support the work of our church.

Andrew Mills
andrew@misc.ca
780-918-3288 (cell)



When it's over, I want to say:
 all my life I was a bride
 Married to amazement.
 I was the bridegroom,
 taking the world into my arms...
 I don't want to end up
 Simply having visited this world.
 Mary Oliver

DECEMBER
Events
for
Spiritual Exploration

Wonder

Please bring new mitts, socks and
 underwear to donate on
 December 18th

Sunday
4th & 11th

Service
 10:30am

Friday
16th

Blue Christmas
 7:00pm

Recognizing the
 holiday season can
 also be a time of
 depression, sadness
 and loss.

Sunday
18th

Mitten Tree
 Service
 10:30am



Saturday
24th

Christmas eve
 service with
 candles, a quartet,
 and more!
 7:00pm

Sunday
25th

Missing family?
 Feeling alone?
 Drop in to the
 church!
 11am breakfast
 5pm supper
 Snacks, carols, and
 activities!

@UCExploration www.UCE.ca UCE Exploration

The Office of Religious Exploration
 provides programs for all ages.
 Contact Oksana at dre@uce.ca
 for more info



DECEMBER

UCE in Action



UCE will again host a writing bee as part of Amnesty International's world-wide campaign "Write for Rights." Join us (in person) Sunday, December 11 right after the church service.

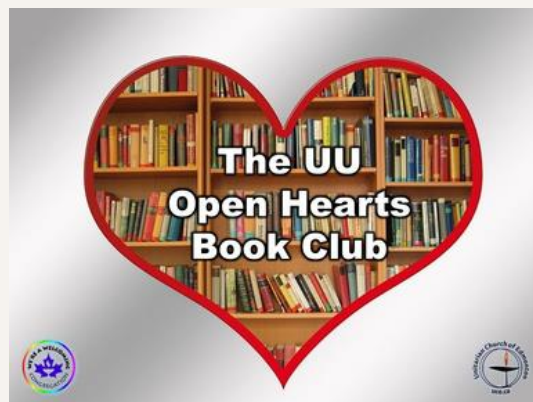
Do not under-estimate the power of one, short, handwritten letter when multiplied by the letters, emails, posts & tweets by people around the world! Write For Rights has proven effective in getting prisoners of conscience released, or their conditions improved. This year Amnesty International has picked 13 situations as the ones most likely to benefit NOW from letter-writing. If one doesn't inspire you, there is surely another that will.

For more info and a sneak peek at the 13 "cases":
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/>



Click [here](#) for December's packet

Please contact Reverend Rosemary at minister@uce.ca if you would like to join a small group



This month the book club will be taking a break but will be back in January. January's book is *Indians on Vacation* by Thomas King

UUs on Tap



Will be back again in January. Please watch this space for the time and place!

A poster for a musical event. The title "MOZART TO METAL TO EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN" is at the top. Below it, the text reads: "Join our musical evenings on Tuesdays at 7 pm. Send in some YouTube links to tunes@uce.ca -- keep it to 2 or 3 tracks of under 5 minutes, please. Questions are welcome. My name is Alex and I will be your host." The background features a white grand piano, a violin, and a small figure in a red coat and white hat.

**All Ages
Drag Show**

Dragging Youth Presents

Winter

**Fundraiser for
the Christmas
Bureau**

**Christmas
Bureau
of Edmonton**

**Saturday
Dec 17**

**Doors 5:30
Show 6PM
\$5 cover charge
Cash bar
and snacks**

Dragging Youth

**Draggingyouthshows
@gmail.com**

10804 - 119 st

**Thank you
to our
Sponsors:**

Unitarian Church of Edmonton
uce.ca

GR

The Unitarian Church of Edmonton proudly supports Dragging Youth. If anyone receives any negative comments about these events, please refer them to the organizers or the UCE office. If the comment is made on a social media post that belongs to Dragging Youth or the UCE, please report on the comment to the moderators/administrators of the page/group. We will document and remove it. We request that you do not engage in conversation and please know we are monitoring the situation.



[CUC December Events](#)

(Please click heading above to go to CUC's Calendar for more information on the below events)

Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour Saturday, December 3, 2022 - 2:00 pm MT (90 minutes) Click [here](#)

Gathered Here – December 8, 2022, 12:00 p.m. MT Click [here](#)

Connect and Deepen: December 11th, 2 pm MT (90 minutes) click [here](#)

UUConnecting: December 18, 5:00 p.m. MT (90 min) click [here](#)



Multifaith Calendar

Please see Rev. Audrey Brooks to place your order or visit the Edmonton Interfaith website to place an order [online](#).

Shaping Our CommUUnity



Vision:

We open doors to all seekers of spiritual growth and nurture positive change for a just and healthy world.

Mission:

UCE Mission is to inspire social justice by questioning the status quo, engaging community and inviting all to the table.

We do this by providing an intentionally inclusive home to:

- nurture spiritual growth and transformation
- foster learning opportunities and outreach experiences
- welcome all age groups
- support action for social justice
- be guided by the principles and sources of Unitarian Universalism

UCE Covenant of Right Relations:

With love as our guide, we pledge to create a beloved community of peace and compassion. We trust our ability to work through conflict. As members and friends of UCE, we agree to:

- Honour and respect diversity in values and beliefs as a source of communal strength
- Be truthful, kind and open minded
- Assume good intent and goodwill
- Listen with open hearts and speak with care even when it is uncomfortable
- Talk to, not about, others
- Accept responsibility for our individual acts
- Address conflict promptly and ask for help when conflict is too difficult
- Be steadfast in support of our community in times of disagreement
- Share the ministry of the congregation through our gifts of time, talent and money
- Express encouragement and appreciation for the gifts of others

The Principles and Sources of our Religious Faith

UU congregations affirm and promote eight principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in UU religious communities.”

Our Eight Principles

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions

We live out these principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from such diverse sources as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

Our Six Sources

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbours as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centred traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
- Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.



Please enjoy watching recordings of our Sunday Services again on YouTube or listen as a Podcast on SoundCloud. Just click on the link and don't forget to subscribe while you are there.



Join us in conversation on Social Media

- Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/41659071349/>
- Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianChurch/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmpm5DXHKM7pRnnzcC75txQ>
- SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-189401827>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnitarianUCE>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unitarianuce/>

Please make sure that you continue to update your Zoom account. Zoom regularly updates to release new features and fix bugs. We recommend upgrading to the latest version once it is available. How to update Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us>

Listen Everywhere



We have installed the Listen Everywhere service to replace our aging FM radios. This system will be in use for every service and available everywhere in the Church building and some of the parking lot.

To use the system, you will need to download and install the Listen Everywhere app from the google store, or apple store and you will need to connect to the UCE WIFI (password posted in church). Once you have done both steps, just open the app and start the session. It allows you to listen using your own headset, wireless earbuds, or if your phone is connected to your hearing aids, you will hear it there. Just as if you are listening to a phone call.

We will have people around to help if you need it, please ask.

Holiday Office Hours

Open: Dec 19, 20, 21 (Mon to Wed)

**Closed: Dec 22, 23 and
27**

Open: Wed, Dec 28

Closed: Dec 29, 30

Jan 2, 3

Open: Wed, Jan 4



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Chorealis Choir: Gordon Ritchie, Karen Mills

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